

Rail Plan a Strategic Look at Missouri's Future

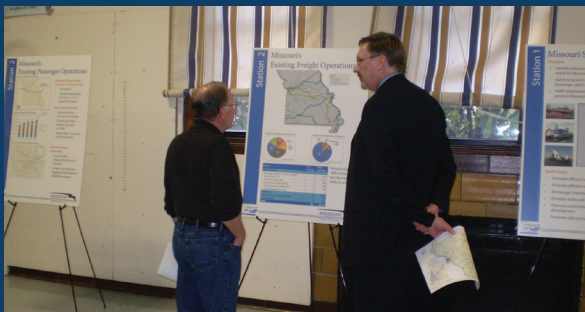
January 2012



Missouri's rail vision is to provide safe, environmentally-friendly transportation options supporting efficient movement of freight and passengers, while strengthening communities and advancing global competitiveness through intermodal connectivity.



Mid Missouri citizens gathered in Jefferson City to discuss Missouri's rail service. Several wanted more short line freight railroad routes that connect to long haul railroad routes.



"Rail Service is important as fuel prices rise" – citizen comment at Cape Girardeau meeting



Community leaders in greater Kansas City discuss improvements they would like to see in Missouri's passenger and freight rail service.

MoDOT is charged with developing a new State Rail Plan, which will serve as the strategic framework for developing freight and passenger rail service in Missouri for the next 20 years. It will guide long-term policies and help prioritize investments that will enhance the movement of people and goods and expand connections between all types of transportation.

State Rail Plan Goals

- Improve the efficiency of passenger movement
- Improve the efficiency of freight movement
- Identify greater intermodal connectivity
- Enhance state and local economic development
- Strengthen communities
- Promote an environmentally and socially responsible rail transportation development
- Promote safe and secure railroad operations

The State Rail Plan will serve as just one component of MoDOT's overall transportation plan, and make it possible for the state to pursue critical federal funds for planning and constructing rail projects.

Missouri Speaks On State Rail Plan:

"We get it and we want more."

You don't have to ask Missourians more than once what they think about trains. They speak up loud and clear in support of more and better freight and passenger rail service and their input will help shape Missouri's State Rail Plan.

***"How can revenues be increased for rail improvements?"
—citizen comment at Hannibal public meeting***

In a series of stakeholder workshops and public meetings held in each of the seven MoDOT districts and on the internet, more than 250 Missouri political, community and business leaders and citizens show a strong understanding passenger and freight rail carries positive economic, environmental and quality of life impacts both statewide and at the most local levels.

Their comments also indicate understanding of how railroads have played a major role in Missouri's transportation history and economic growth, as well as their expectations for what rail can do to move the state into an even better future.

They see state-supported passenger rail service on the St. Louis to Kansas City "Missouri River Runner" Corridor as a success and

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Railroads are a significant part of Missouri's transportation system. Our state's extensive rail network, which supports both freight and passenger operations, ranks 10th nationally in miles of track. The freight rail industry has a significant impact on Missouri's economy, generating \$2.8 billion in Gross State Product (2007). Missouri also has a long history of Amtrak and state-supported intercity passenger rail service. It is one of 13 states contracted with Amtrak for more frequent service extending beyond the national system.

What's Next

As the team continues to digest feedback from the public and community leaders, it will continue its technical work as well. The team is identifying how and where the freight and passenger rail network could be improved, quantifying benefits new investments could generate, prioritizing needs and improving long-term policy for rail development.

These findings and recommendations will be incorporated in the draft State Rail Plan, which will be presented to the public this spring, both online and at another series of public meetings. The final Missouri State Rail Plan will be submitted to the Federal Railroad Administration in May 2012.

Contact Us

Would you like to know more?

See project details at morail.org or contact the project managers

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desire faster, better and more frequent trains. This is a view shared in regions of the state well outside of the corridor: sharing a pride in how the service is drawing a growing number of passengers and a desire to see service expand to other parts of the state.

"When is there going to be a train to Branson?".... "There needs to be rail to Branson."--- public comments at Kirkwood public meeting

Encouraging as well is a broad recognition by stakeholders and the public that the investments of public and private sector funds in Missouri's rail system not only improve passenger rail, but also greatly improve movement of freight through and within the state.

"Rail can help get more trucks off the highways".... comment at Kansas City public meeting

The availability of rail service provides opportunities for producers of agricultural products, natural resources and manufactured goods to expand their market access, grow their businesses and create jobs.

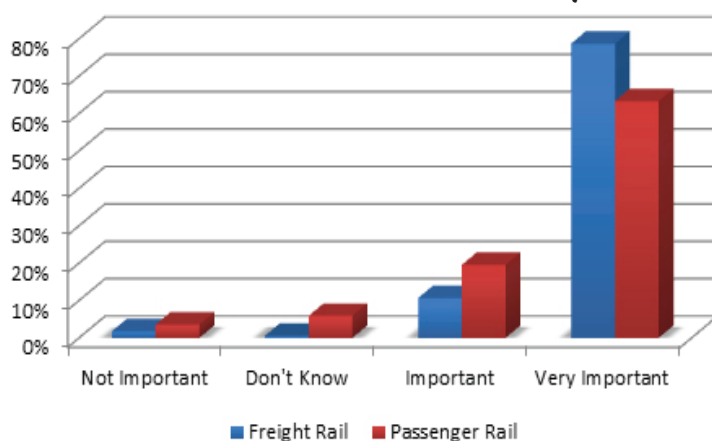
MoDOT also heard:

- Rail is more fuel efficient and reduces emissions that lower air quality.
- Freight rail benefits both state and local economies.
- Passenger rail provides an attractive and viable option to driving or flying for short to medium-distance trips.
- Passenger and freight rail development is generally a worthy investment as long as one doesn't impede the other.
- Investing more in rail infrastructure will increase speed, reliability and ridership for passenger service and also improve the movement of freight as well.... and all the benefits that accrue.
- There is no dedicated funding source for passenger or freight rail projects.
- The state should help preserve and expand freight and passenger rail.

What do Missourians want from the rail system for the future? They want to build on success: they like what they've seen, but aren't satisfied with what they see becoming the status quo.

Want more detail on what your fellow Missourians had to say about the State Rail Plan? The summary of comments is available at morail.org.

How important is freight and passenger rail to Missouri's economy?



About 250 online and written comments indicated that respondents believe freight and passenger rail are important to Missouri's economy.